

CLAIMS:

1. A machine to produce a package assembly including a flexible strip to which there is attached a plurality of closed bags having end seal areas, the bags being delivered to the machine in an attached configuration connected at the end seal areas, said
5 machine including:

a jaw assembly including a pair of movable opposing jaws that are caused to move to engage the strip and bags located therebetween to secure the bags to the strip at a one of the end seal areas;

a strip delivery mechanism to deliver the strip to the jaws;

10 a drive assembly to cause movement of the jaws; and

wherein said jaw assembly includes a blade to cut the bags to separate the bags into sets, with each set being attached to the strip by a respective one of the end seal areas.

2. The machine of claim 1 wherein, said blade is movably mounted in one
15 of the jaws to sever the set from further bags being delivered to the machine, said blade being movable between an extended position to engage the bags, and a retracted position at which the bags are not severed.

3. The machine of claim 1 or 2 wherein, each set includes at least one bag.

4. The machine of claim 1, 2 or 3 further including an actuator assembly to
20 cause movement of the blade.

5. The machine of claim 4 wherein, the actuator assembly includes a rotatably driven crank mechanism that causes linear reciprocation of the jaws.

6. The machine of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein, the delivery mechanism includes a slot in one of the jaws through which the strip passes.

7. In combination the machine of any one of claims 1 to 6 and a packaging machine that produces the bags, and wherein said packaging machine includes sealing jaws that engage the bags to form said end seal areas. In a further preferred form, said sealing jaws include a member to perforate each bag so that individual bags may be separated from their respective sets.

8. A method of forming a packaging assembly, said method including the steps of:

providing a flexible strip;

providing a plurality of sealingly closed bags, the bags being joined by end seal areas;

cutting the bags into sets and attaching each set to said strip by a respective one of the end sealed areas.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein, each set includes at least one bag.

10. The method of claim 8 or 9 wherein, the method includes perforating the bags so that each bag can be separated from the strip and adjacent bags.

11. A package assembly including a flexible strip and a plurality of bags attached to the strip at longitudinal spaced locations along the strip, with the bags being arranged in sets, each set including a plurality of bags with each bag having end seal areas; and wherein

the bags of each set are attached to the strip by a respective one of the end seal areas.

12. The package assembly of claim 11 wherein, adjacent bags are attached by the end seal areas with a transversed weakened portion that is fractured to enable separation of the bags.

13. The package assembly of claim 11 of 12 wherein, each set is attached to the strip by an end seal area, at least some of the bags are attached by a weakened portion enabling separation of the bags.

14. The package assembly of claim 11, 12 or 13 wherein, the end bag is
5 adapted to peel off from the strip.

15. A packaging assembly including:

a flexible strip;

a plurality of bags attached to the strip at longitudinally spaced locations along the strip, each bag being attached to the strip by an end seal area including a weakened
10 portion that is fractured enabling separation of the bag from the strip.